



A Concept Note for Multiple District 19 Lions



This pilot project will improve the rights of women in Ecuador's Pichincha, Imbabura and Sucumbios provinces, and beyond.

Project Name: Fighting Gender-Based Violence in Ecuador
Project Location: Pichincha, Imbabura, Carchi and Sucumbios Provinces, Ecuador
Amount Requested: \$80,000 (Over Two Years)
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Background

In Ecuador, eight of every 10 women have suffered some form of violence. One out of every four women has suffered sexual violence, which is most prevalent among indigenous women, Afro-Ecuadorians and *mestizas*, or people of mixed race. The most common forms of violence committed daily against these women include partner abuse, sexual harassment and violence, and institutional and discriminatory violence. Ecuador is also a country of origin and transit, as well as a destination for victims of trafficking and labor exploitation. According to UN Women Ecuador, 12 percent of sex workers in the provinces of Imbabura and Sucumbios are girls under 18 years of age, mainly from Colombia.

CARE's Capacity and Project Strategy

CARE has worked in Ecuador since 1962. To address the underlying causes of poverty, we have defined a program strategy that consists of three key elements that apply to all programs: 1) Increase the capacity of

key local and national actors; 2) Support integral development approaches developed by excluded groups; and 3) Influence policies and promote civic and private attitudes and practices at the local, regional and national level that promote equity, inclusion and improved power relations. To operationalize this strategy, CARE pursues a multi-disciplinary approach to the design and implementation of programs in democracy and governance, education, health, water and sanitation, natural resource management and economic development, with a focus on empowering women and girls.

Through the *Fighting Gender-Based Violence in Ecuador* project, CARE will address gender-based violence at local and national levels by engaging indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian women, and women survivors of violence and trafficking, through the formulation of national laws and policies that guarantee their human rights. **This project will directly impact 300 women** in Pichincha, Imbabura, Carchi and Sucumbios provinces, **as well as 50 public sector officials** from the National Assembly, local and provincial governments, the criminal justice system and other government entities involved in women's rights.

Goal, Strategies and Activities

The goal of the project is for women victims of violence to gain a better understanding of how to access the justice system, as well as a better understanding of violence itself and violation of their rights. To do this, the project will work to contribute to the consolidation of a favorable legal framework for the prevention, treatment and eradication of gender-based violence. This will be achieved by developing networks and linkages between social organizations and public authorities that will focus attention on the issue, and provide oversight on the effectiveness of public policies to combat gender-based violence.

Strategy:

- Promote spaces of outreach, information and education to build the capacities of women who are involved in advocating for policies that protect women's rights, as well as ensuring that they are enforced.
- Build alliances with local and national organizations to influence and advocate for the formulation, implementation and enforcement of public policies that protect women's rights.
- Develop research and systematize knowledge management around proposal development, laws and policies, with the active participation of women.

Activities:

- Identify and train leaders of women's organizations on participation and social control processes related to gender violence.
- Strengthen social, legal and psychological support networks – including the justice system and social organizations focused on this issue – for victims of violence and exclusion.
- Build capacity of women's organizations to reactivate organizational processes related to the enforcement of human rights and laws and protocols that guarantee enforcement of women's rights.
- Advocate for the formulation and implementation of public policies that combat gender violence, with a special focus on the most vulnerable populations.
- Create a follow-up and monitoring system that generates information for people involved in the field.

April 2016